



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 9

September 2023

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August Fox Hunt **Jim Neff, WJ4M**

It had been years since I'd gone on a "fox hunt." It is actually a hidden transmitter hunt where someone hides a beacon and you use direction-finding techniques to find it. Travis Few, N9EOD, had announced an August hunt at a park nearby on a Saturday, a day I'm available. I called Royce, or RB KX7Q and we headed out to OP Schnabel Park.

We met up with Travis in the parking lot next to the pool and borrowed a directional antenna from him. While we were chatting with Travis, Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, drove up and we three set out to find the fox. I soon got separated from the two and wandered about the park using two handhelds, looking for the null off each antenna for directions. One, with a long antenna, was able to pick up the signal at a distance, the other did not work until I was getting close. Towers and the metal building housing the YMCA caused reflections that confused the hunt a bit.

I wandered for the better part of 45 minutes finally searching for maximum signal

The next meeting, September 14, 2023, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 . Program: Its about Time Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

strength. I knew I was getting close when I spied RB with the directional antenna on a parallel path. Bill had to leave to work a VE session. We looked around and finally discovered a truck with a couple of hams sitting at a table. Aha! We soon found the fox nearby and enjoyed a good rag chew before leaving for lunch.



RB KX7Q Finds The Fox

People who found the fox in order.

Garcia Ricard KI5ZZE
Emilio Ramirez AG5QP
Travis Buhler & son KI5TXG
team 2
Jimmie Neff
RB Bell KX7Q
Bill Craft KD2HIQ left early for VE testing

Next Fox Hunt Saturday, 23 September, 0900-1200, Phil Hardberger Park. Talk in AARO repeater, 147.380 PL 162.2. Fox on 146.565



The Fox

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
9	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		September 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

Next month, I would like you to safely see something. The 2023 solar eclipse will occur on Saturday, October 14, 2023. The annular solar eclipse will cross Texas crossing over Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and the Midland and Odessa area.

You cannot safely see an annular solar eclipse without eye protection. Because the moon is too far away the face of the sun will shine around the sun and burn your eyes.

In 2024, we will have a total eclipse of the sun. During the totality of this type of eclipse, you can safely take off your eye protection. But as soon as the moon no longer covers the sun, put on the safety glasses again.

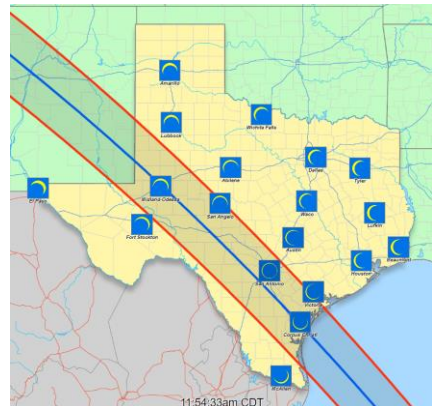
So, buy your safety glasses now. Do not wait. Welding goggles and hoods are not dark enough!

Ok now what can you do to promote ham radio and science during the eclipse? Go to <https://hamsci.org/eclipse> and participate.

Most of all be safe, I would like us to see each other again at the next meeting!

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT



Track of the Oct 14 eclipse

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., August 10, 2023
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS: Anderson Power Pole Connectors for amateur radio.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

One correction to July minutes: Date of meeting corrected to 7/13/23. There being no additions, or deletions, minutes were approved with change without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – BOD meeting briefly reviewed, including an offer to donate a small parcel of land to the club.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW – No report.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Report about the recent Board of Directors’ meeting was published in the most recent Bexar Wire newsletter, available at the club’s website, w5sc.org/newsletter. Provided overview of the year-to-date budget, other topics related to events, lessons learned from Field Day and Radio Fiesta, including possibly assigning greeters at Field Day and feeding attendees. Highlighted the challenges we’ve faced attracting large vendors to Radio Fiesta. The BOD authorized the President to form a committee to further explore the implications of accepting the donated land. Official policy of SARC is now to be neutral re: joining ARRL. We will no longer push members to join ARRL but leave it up to each member to decide. Next BOD meeting will be in January 2024.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – New account soon to be opened to segregate the Craig Lester funds.

Education and Training – David Finell, N7LRY – No report.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS – No report.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of DATE: 8/5/23

Paid 157	New Members for 2023		
Mil 5	First	Last	Call
Family Members 21	B	Eric	?
Radio Fiesta-Free 9	Jason Ray	Burrell	KJ5BSC
ARRL Members 113	Oliver	Eavener	W2TIN
Total membership 192			

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed on August

1. Groups.io – Club’s primary method of mass communication
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
2. Mail chimp- Meeting notice
3. Twitter
4. Facebook - Meeting notice

POTA - Jon April KI5CSK – No report.

Field Day – Jon April: Best attendance and number of radio contacts in club’s history for our 2023 Field Day. Certificates of Appreciation presented to volunteers. President’s Certificate of Appreciation presented to Harold Fleischer in recognition of his significant contribution to the success of Field Day. 45 people signed the visitor log. 20 people signed the HF operator list, 12 under the club’s callsign. 300 contacts total for the club. Reviewed opportunities to improve the experience next year (4th full weekend in June every year).

Fox Hunt – Travis Few – Upcoming August 26, 2023 Fox hunt at OP Schnable Park.

Finance and Review – No report.

JOTA – John Douglas W5NZK – No report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – No report.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – No report.

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – No report.

Monthly Activities – Travis Few, N9EOD – 7/29/23 participated in a balloon launch out of San Marcos. Reviewed that data collected. These events are conducted jointly with Civil Air Patrol.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No report.

Scholarship Committee: Jon April – Tickets are still for sale for the raffle, \$25 each, no more than 400 total tickets to be sold. Drawing will be held in November 2023.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None

New Business – None

Announcements: Richard Elder reviewed how an SWR problem was solved at Field Day.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:40 PM

A Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-300ER is shown in flight, banking to the right. The aircraft is white with a dark blue and red stripe along the fuselage. The word "malaysia" is written in a stylized font on the side. The tail features the airline's logo. The aircraft is flying through a sky with scattered white clouds.

Sixty-six seconds after the message was sent, MH370 disappeared from Malaysian ATC radar screens. Attempts to contact the plane were met with silence. All the plane's communications had gone dark. Malaysian military radar tracked the plane for another hour as it turned back on itself, flew back across the Malay Peninsula, up the Strait of Malacca and out into the Andaman Sea, leaving radar range 200 nautical miles northwest of Penang Island. Air traffic controllers in Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia tried to locate the flight without success. In a world with multiple communication systems monitored by thousands including satellites it seemed improbable something so large and advanced could vanish, but it had. For days afterward searches of the Gulf of Thailand and searches of satellite imagery turned up nothing. Meanwhile, a UK communications company which operated communications systems used by airlines, Inmarsat, began analysis of datalinks between its satellite and MH370. The Inmarsat system sent hourly messages to the plane, or "handshakes," which received automated replies of "pings." Using the pings, Inmarsat and UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch technicians were able to determine that

Based on the Inmarsat data, searches were started. The search area covered about 120 thousand square miles. Nothing was turned up despite weeks of searching. However, parts of the plane started showing up on the coasts of Africa and Madagascar, carried from the crash site by ocean currents. An extensive study of ocean currents and satellite data was done. In 2022, a new source of data was developed using the amateur WSPRS net data.

MH370 Flight Path

Flight path of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, and secondary routes for satellite connectivity, and other flight routes

Timeline

- (0) Depart Kuala Lumpur (KL) 01:23
- (1) Loss of Secondary Radar (01:29)
- (2) Last ACAS Report (01:35)
- (3) ACAS Report (01:40)
- (4) Radar in Cambodia (01:45)
- (5) Radar in Vietnam (01:50)
- (6) Radar in Thailand (01:55)
- (7) Radar in Laos (02:00)
- (8) Radar in Myanmar (02:05)
- (9) Radar in India (02:10)
- (10) Radar in Australia (02:15)
- (11) Radar in New Zealand (02:20)
- (12) Radar in Antarctica (02:25)
- (13) Radar in South America (02:30)
- (14) Radar in Africa (02:35)
- (15) Radar in Europe (02:40)
- (16) Radar in Asia (02:45)
- (17) Radar in Australia (02:50)
- (18) Radar in New Zealand (02:55)
- (19) Radar in India (03:00)
- (20) Radar in Thailand (03:05)
- (21) Radar in Vietnam (03:10)
- (22) Radar in Cambodia (03:15)
- (23) Radar in Laos (03:20)
- (24) Radar in Myanmar (03:25)
- (25) Radar in Malaysia (03:30)
- (26) Radar in Brunei (03:35)
- (27) Radar in Indonesia (03:40)
- (28) Radar in Philippines (03:45)
- (29) Radar in Vietnam (03:50)
- (30) Radar in Cambodia (03:55)
- (31) Radar in Laos (04:00)
- (32) Radar in Myanmar (04:05)
- (33) Radar in Thailand (04:10)
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- (206) Radar in Laos (18:35)
- (207) Radar in Myanmar (18:40)
- (208) Radar in Thailand (18:45)
- (209) Radar in Vietnam (18:50)
- (210) Radar in Cambodia (18:55)
- (211) Radar in Laos (19:00)
- (212) Radar in Myanmar (19:05)
- (213) Radar in Thailand (19:1

5

551 Citation II/SP registration OE-FGR, which crashed after fuel exhaustion into the Baltic Sea off the coast of Latvia on Sunday 4th September 2022.”

This case study is similar to the tragic flight of MH370 in as much as the aircraft flew until fuel exhaustion and then crashed into the sea. The airspace around the aircraft was cleared of other air traffic over the Baltic Sea with the exception of the fighter jet assigned to follow and observe the Cessna.

The authors said that they “have demonstrated how aircraft can be detected and tracked both in the cruise phase of a flight in straight and level flight, as well as in the descent phase whilst descending and turning.

The authors also investigated alternative hypotheses and anomalies in relationship to WSPRnet links and said that while the WSPRnet data was noisy, with care it is possible to extract useful information.

They add: “The analysis in the report supports our previous belief that using WSPRnet data to detect and track MH370 together with the Boeing 777-200ER performance data and the Inmarsat satellite data provides a reliable method to determine the crash location.

WSPR (pronounced "whisper") is an acronym for *Weak Signal Propagation Reporter*. It is a protocol, implemented in a computer program, used for weak-[signal radio communication](#) between [amateur radio operators](#). The protocol was designed, and a program written initially, by [Joe Taylor, K1JT](#). The software code is now [open source](#) and is

developed by a small team. The program is designed for sending and receiving low-power transmissions to test propagation paths on the [MF](#) and [HF](#) bands.

WSPR implements a protocol designed for probing potential propagation paths with low-power transmissions. Transmissions carry a station's call sign, [Maidenhead grid locator](#), and transmitter power in [dBm](#). The program can decode signals with a [signal-to-noise ratio](#) as low as -28 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth.^[2] Stations with internet access can automatically upload their reception reports to a central database called WSPRnet, which includes a mapping facility.

According to Mr. Godfrey, his data plus data from analysis of ocean currents carrying debris can narrow the search area from the original 120 thousand square miles to 300 or less. Governments involved are considering re-opening searches based on Godfrey’s data.

Editor’s Note. This article was assembled using information in:

An article by Nick Harding [New Evidence Revealed in Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 Mystery \(knewz.com\)](#)

Article, [Geoffrey Thomas MH370: New Research Paper Confirms WSPRnet Tracking Technology - Airline Ratings](#)

Google Search and Wikipedia



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Team Lead:

We had 3 people test. All 3 passed their tech license
Gregory Eckert won the radio.

Pre Register (required) at **HamTest@w5sc.org**

Other info is at W5SC.org click “Getting Started” then, “Testing.”



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

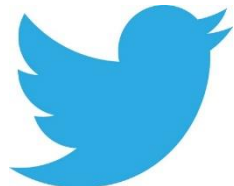
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

SARC Meeting Dates for 2023

January 12, 2023
 February 9, 2023
 March 9, 2023
 April 13, 2023
 May 11, 2023
 June 8, 2023
 July 13, 2023
 August 10, 2023
 September 14, 2023
 October 12, 2023
 November 9, 2022
 December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
 David Finell, N7LRY
 Instructor

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
 Billc851@gmail.com
 210-233-8863

Radio Fiesta 2024

Radio Fiesta 2023 was a success. The venue will not be available in June next year, but watch this page for information about Radio Fiesta 2024.

License Testing Dates for 2023

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

Field Day 2023

Field Day exercise, June 24 – 25 was at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twentieth year. *Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.* Start thinking about Field Day 2024!.